

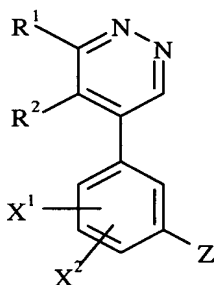
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-13 without prejudice and insert therefore new Claims 14-26. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (new) A compound of formula I, or an *N*-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

wherein:

$X^1$  represents hydrogen, halogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, trifluoromethyl or  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy;

$X^2$  represents hydrogen or halogen;

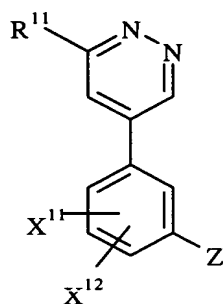
Z represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano, cyanomethyl, trifluoromethyl, nitro, hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, formyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxy carbonyl, or an optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkoxy group;

$R^1$  represents hydrogen, hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro,  $-OR^a$ ,  $-OSO_2CF_3$ ,  $-SR^a$ ,  $-SOR^a$ ,  $-SO_2R^a$ ,  $-SO_2NR^aR^b$ ,  $-NR^aR^b$ ,  $-NR^aCOR^b$ ,  $-NR^aCO_2R^b$ ,  $-COR^a$ ,  $-CO_2R^a$ ,  $-CONR^aR^b$  or  $-CR^a=NOR^b$ ;

$R^2$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxy carbonyl; and

$R^a$  and  $R^b$  independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group.

15. (new) The compound of Claim 14 of the formula IIA, or an *N*-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(IIA)

wherein:

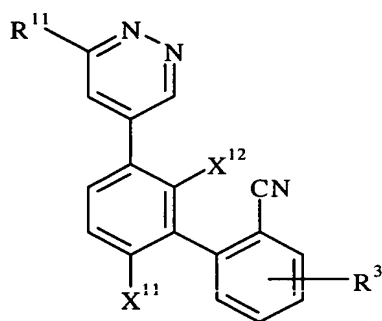
X<sup>11</sup> represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methoxy;

X<sup>12</sup> represents hydrogen or fluoro; and

R<sup>11</sup> represents phenyl, halophenyl, dihalophenyl, trihalophenyl,

(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)(halo)phenyl, (trifluoromethyl)(halo)phenyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxyphenyl, (C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy)(halo)phenyl, cyanophenyl, (cyano)(halo)phenyl, C<sub>3-7</sub> heterocycloalkyl (optionally substituted by oxo), C<sub>3-7</sub> heterocycloalkenyl, heteroaryl (optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, and/or by oxo), C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy, aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkoxy, triflyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylamino, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkylamino, aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylamino (optionally substituted by C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy) or C<sub>2-6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl.

16. (new) The compound of Claim 15 of the formula IIB, or an *N*-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

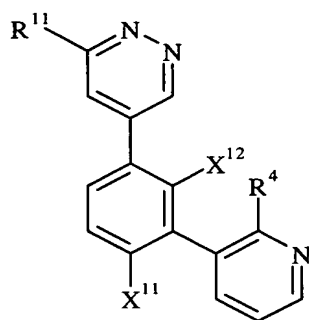


(IIB)

wherein:

$R^3$  represents hydrogen or fluoro.

17. (new) The compound of Claim 15 of the formula IIC, or an *N*-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

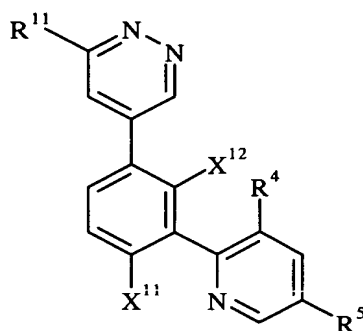


(IIC)

wherein:

$R^4$  represents hydrogen, fluoro, cyano or methyl.

18. (new) The compound of Claim 15 of the formula IID, or an *N*-oxide thereof or an pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

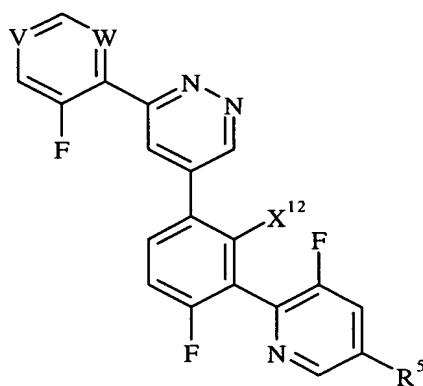


(IID)

wherein:

$R^5$  represents hydrogen or fluoro.

19. (new) The compound of Claim 18 of the formula IIE, or an *N*-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(IIE)

wherein:

V represents N and W represents CF; or

V represents CF and W represents N; or

V and W both represent CF.

20. (new) A compound which is selected from:

3,5-diphenylpyridazine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;  
3,5-diphenylpyridazine-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester;  
3,5-diphenylpyridazine;  
5-[2-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
5-(3-isopropoxyphenyl)-3-phenylpyridazine;  
3-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)benzaldehyde;  
4,2'-difluoro-5'-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
5-(3-cyanophenyl)-3-phenylpyridazine;  
5-(3-bromophenyl)-3-phenylpyridazine;  
3-phenyl-5-[3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;  
3-phenyl-5-(3-[1,2,4]triazol-4-ylphenyl)pyridazine;  
5-[2,4-difluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
5-[3-(2-methyl-2H-[1,2,4]triazol-3-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
6,2'-difluoro-5'-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
3-phenyl-5-[3-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]pyridazine;  
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
5-[2-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
[3-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)phenyl]acetonitrile;  
2-fluoro-5-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)benzonitrile;  
5-(3-nitrophenyl)-3-phenylpyridazine;  
3-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)benzoic acid methyl ester;  
3-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)benzaldehyde;  
5-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-phenylpyridazine;  
3-phenyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridazine;  
5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylpyridazine;  
5,2'-difluoro-5'-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;

3,2'-difluoro-5'-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 5-(4-fluoro-3-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylpyridazine;  
 6,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(4-fluorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 4-fluoro-3'-(6-phenylpyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 6,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(thien-2-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 6,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 5'-[6-(3-chlorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]-6,2'-difluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 6,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(pyridin-3-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 5'-[6-(4-chlorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]-6,2'-difluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 6,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(pyridin-4-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-3-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;  
 3-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;  
 6,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(2-fluorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 6,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(3-fluorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 3-[6-(3-fluorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]benzonitrile;  
 3-[6-(2-fluorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]benzonitrile;  
 3-[6-(4-fluorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]benzonitrile;  
 3-[6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]benzonitrile;  
 3-[6-(3,4-difluorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]benzonitrile;  
 3-[6-(2,4-difluorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]benzonitrile;  
 5'-[6-(2-chlorophenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]-6,2'-difluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenylpyridazine;  
 4-fluoro-3'-[6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;  
 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-pyridazine;  
 2-{5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazin-3-yl}-5-fluorobenzonitrile;

3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(furan-3-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(furan-2-yl)pyridazine;  
 3-(2,3-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thien-3-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thien-2-yl)pyridazine;  
 3-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;  
 3-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;  
 4-{5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazin-3-yl} benzonitrile;  
*N*-[5-(3-bromophenyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-*N*-methylamine;  
*N*-[5-(3-bromophenyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-*N*-isopropylamine;  
*N*-[5-(3-bromophenyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-*N*-cyclopropylamine;  
*N*-allyl-*N*-[5-(3-bromophenyl)pyridazin-3-yl]amine;  
*N*-[5-(3-bromophenyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-*N*-ethylamine  
*N*-benzyl-*N*-[5-(3-bromophenyl)pyridazin-3-yl]amine;  
*N*-[5-(3-bromophenyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-*N*-(2-methoxybenzyl)amine;  
 5-(3-bromophenyl)-3-(2,5-dihydropyrrol-1-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-(3-bromophenyl)-3-ethoxypyridazine;  
 3-allyloxy-5-(3-bromophenyl)pyridazine;  
 3-(6-isopropylaminopyridazin-4-yl)benzonitrile;  
 3-(6-benzylaminopyridazin-4-yl)benzonitrile;  
 3-[6-(2-methoxybenzylamino)pyridazin-4-yl]benzonitrile;  
 3-(6-benzyloxy-pyridazin-4-yl)benzonitrile;  
 3'-(6-ethylaminopyridazin-4-yl)-4-fluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 4-fluoro-3'-(6-isopropylaminopyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 4-fluoro-3'-(6-propylaminopyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 3'-(6-cyclopropylaminopyridazin-4-yl)-4-fluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 3'-(6-allylaminopyridazin-4-yl)-4-fluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 3'-(6-benzylaminopyridazin-4-yl)-4-fluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 4-fluoro-3'-(6-methylaminopyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 4-fluoro-3'-(6-methoxypyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 3'-(6-ethoxypyridazin-4-yl)-4-fluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;

3'-(6-benzyloxy pyridazin-4-yl)-4-fluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 5-(4-fluoro-3-hydroxyphenyl)-3-phenylpyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(2-methyl-2*H*-[1,2,4]triazol-3-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyrazin-2-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thiazol-2-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-2-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(1*H*-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine-1-oxide;  
 3-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;  
 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

21. (new) A compound which is selected from:

3-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)-pyridazine;  
 3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;  
 trifluoromethanesulfonic acid 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazin-3-yl ester;  
 3-ethylsulfanyl-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;  
 3-*tert*-butylsulfanyl-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-pyridazine;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine 1-oxide;  
 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoro-1-oxypyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine;  
 5-[2,4-difluoro-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)pyridazine;



5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;  
 3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;  
 3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;  
 3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;  
 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

22. (new) The compound of Claim 14 which is selected from:

3-(3,5-difluoro-1-oxypyridin-4-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]pyridazine;  
 5'-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]-2'-fluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 5'-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]-2'-fluorobiphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 4,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 4,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 2-{5-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]-2-fluorophenyl}-nicotinonitrile;  
 2-{5-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]-2-fluorophenyl}-nicotinonitrile;  
 2'-fluoro-5'-[6-(2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 2'-fluoro-5'-[6-(2-oxo-2*H*-pyridin-1-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 6,2'-difluoro-5'-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
 3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridazine;  
 3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(6-fluoro-2'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-3-yl)-pyridazine;  
 5-(6,2'-difluorobiphenyl-3-yl)-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazine;  
 3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(6,2',4'-trifluorobiphenyl-3-yl)pyridazine;  
 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)-pyridazine;  
 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

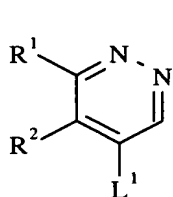
23. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 14, or an *N*-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (new) A method for the treatment of a neurological disorder which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of Claim 14, or an *N*-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

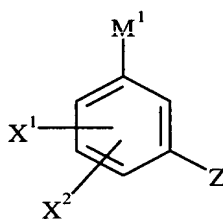
25. (new) A method for the prevention of a neurological disorder which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of Claim 14, or an *N*-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (new) A process for the preparation of a compound of Claim 14, which comprises:

(A) reacting a compound of formula III with a compound of formula IV:



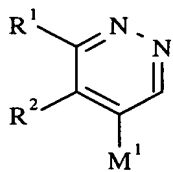
(III)



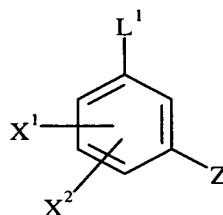
(IV)

wherein X¹, X², Z, R¹ and R² are as defined in Claim 14, L¹ represents a suitable leaving group, and M¹ represents a boronic acid moiety -B(OH)₂ or a cyclic ester thereof formed with an organic diol, or M¹ represents -Sn(Alk)₃ in which Alk represents C₁-₆ alkyl, or M¹ represents -ZnHal in which Hal represents halogen; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst; or

(B) reacting a compound of formula V with a compound of formula VI:



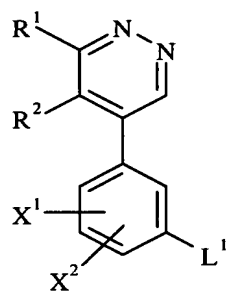
(V)



(VI)

wherein X¹, X², Z, R¹ and R² are as defined in Claim 14, and L¹ and M¹ are as defined above; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst; or

(C) reacting a compound of formula VII with a compound of formula VIII:



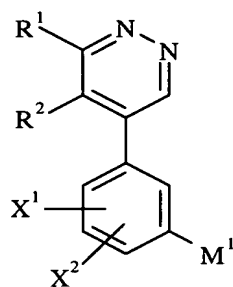
(VII)



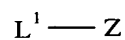
(VIII)

wherein  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Z$ ,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are as defined in Claim 14, and  $L^1$  and  $M^1$  are as defined above; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst; or

(D) reacting a compound of formula IX with a compound of formula X:



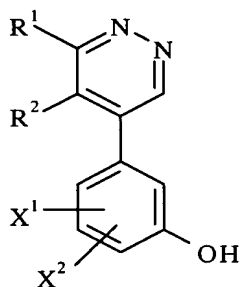
(IX)



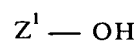
(X)

wherein  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Z$ ,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are as defined in Claim 14, and  $L^1$  and  $M^1$  are as defined above; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst; or

(E) reacting a compound of formula XI with a compound of formula XII:



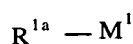
(XI)



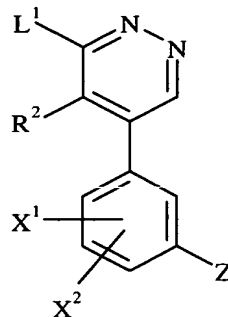
(XII)

wherein  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are as defined in Claim 14, and  $Z^1$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl; in the presence of triphenylphosphine and a dialkyl azodicarboxylate; or

(F) reacting a compound of formula XIV with a compound of formula XV:



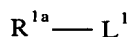
(XIV)



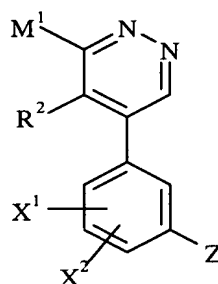
(XV)

wherein  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Z$  and  $R^2$  are as defined in Claim 14,  $L^1$  and  $M^1$  are as defined above, and  $R^{1a}$  represents an aryl or heteroaryl moiety; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst; or

(G) reacting a compound of formula XVI with a compound of formula XVII:



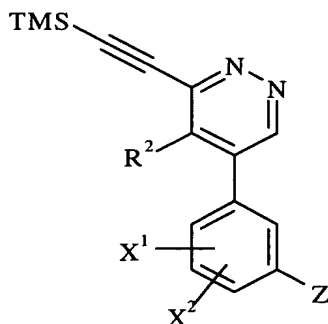
(XVI)



(XVII)

wherein  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Z$  and  $R^2$  are as defined in Claim 14, and  $R^{1a}$ ,  $L^1$  and  $M^1$  are as defined above; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst; or

(H) reacting a compound of formula XVIII:



(XVIII)

wherein X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, Z and R<sup>2</sup> are as defined in Claim 14, and TMS is an abbreviation for trimethylsilyl; with sodium azide; or

(J) reacting a compound of formula XV as defined above with a compound of formula R<sup>a</sup>-OH, wherein R<sup>a</sup> is as defined in Claim 14; or

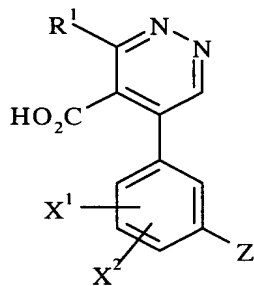
(K) reacting a compound of formula XV as defined above with a salt of formula R<sup>a</sup>S<sup>-</sup>Na<sup>+</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup> is as defined in Claim 14; or

(L) reacting a compound of formula XV as defined above with a compound of formula H-NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are as defined in Claim 14; or

(M) reacting a compound of formula XV as defined above with carbon dioxide and a compound of formula R<sup>a</sup>-OH, wherein R<sup>a</sup> is as defined in Claim 14; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst; or

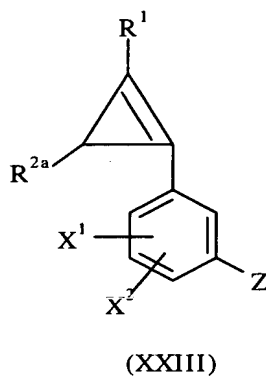
(N) reacting a compound of formula VII above wherein L<sup>1</sup> represents a halogen atom with zinc cyanide; in the presence of a transition metal catalyst; or

(P) reacting a compound of formula XXII:



(XXII)

wherein  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ , Z and  $R^1$  are as defined in Claim 14; with diazomethane; or  
 (Q) reacting a compound of formula XXIII:



wherein  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ , Z and  $R^1$  are as defined in Claim 14, and  $R^{2a}$  represents  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxy carbonyl; with diazomethane.